LOK SABHA DEBATES

SECOND SERIES

VOLUME XVIII, 1958

(11th August to 22nd August, 1958)



FIFTH SESSION, 1958

(Vol. XVIII Contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

grievously. Subsequently, two of the seriously injured persons also succumbed to their injuries in the hospital, bringing the total death roll to 6.

The Government Inspector of Railways, Lucknow (at Calcutta) who has held his inquiry into this accident has come to the provisional conclusion that the derailment was the result of the track having been tampered with by some person or persons unknown. Police have arrested 3 men.

I would also like to inform the House about an accident to a Goods train which occurred at about 14.12 hours on 9th August 1958 between Ariyalur and Kallagam stations on the Trichinopoly-Villupuram Chord line of the Southern Railway, while No. 2264 Up Goods train was passing over the bridge at mile 170/10-14. The engine and the first six wagons passed safely but the following 27 wagons derailed, out of which 24 capsized and fell into the Marudayar river. There were no casualties.

It would be recalled that two years ago a tragic accident involving a passenger train occurred at the same bridge due to a breach in the approach. The Chief Engineer, Southern Railway has inspected the bridge and has reported that the bridge and its approaches are intact. The bridge has, however, been only slightly damaged as a result of the accident. From preliminary reports, it is understood that there was a heavy rain and gale at the time the Goods train was passing over the bridge. The water level in the river at that time was reported to be only 5 feet from the bed and well below the bottom of the girders. A bridge watchman is posted on this bridge.

An enquiry by Heads of Departments of the Southern Railway has been ordered and the cause of the accident will be known on receipt of their report.

13·23 hrs.

REPORT OF KERALA AND MADRAS FOOD POISONING CASES ENQUIRY COMMISSION

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): This is a statement regarding action taken on the report of Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission. It is a fairly long one—two and three-quarter pages. If you will permit me, I will lay it on the Table of the House, as also a copy of the Report of Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-764/58.]

Mr. Speaker: Yes. It may be circulated also.

Statement

The Government of India appointed a Commission of Enquiry to enquire into the recent food poisoning cases in the States of Kerala and Madras with the following members:

1. Mr. Justice J. C. Shah, Judge, High Court, Bombay (Chairman).
2. Major-General Swarup Narain, Principal, Armed Forces Medical College, Poona (Member).
3. Capt. T. B. Bose, Chief Surveyor with the Government of India, Ministry of Transport and Communications (Member).

The Commission commenced the enquiry on the 6th June, 1958 and submitted its Report to Government on July 5, 1958. The Report was released to the Press on the 12th July, 1958. Copies were also sent to the State Governments on the 17th July, 1958. I am laying on the Table of the Sabha a copy of the Report.

2. The Government of India have accepted the findings recorded by the Commission. As regards legal liability, the views of the Government of India have been conveyed to the Governments of Kerala and Bombay.

In the meanwhile the Kerala Government have registered cases against M/S. D. N. Nakhate of Chika Ltd., Bombay (2) V. V. Dabke, Shipping Agent, Bombay, (3) A. A. Jaffar, Captain, S. S. Jai Hind, Bombay, (4) G. Gopinath Kaimal, Chief Officer, S. S. Jai Hind, Bombay, (5) Sandhil, Second Officer, S. S. Jai Hind, Bombay, (6) Ibrahim Rajee Pathan, Cargo Supervisor, Bombay, (7) Rattansey Panchan, Steamer Agent, Cochin, (8) Albert Fernandez, Cargo Supervisor, Cochin and (9) P. C. Varkey, Agent, A. V. Thomas & Company, Cochin, under sections 304A and 284 IPC.

M/S Jaffar, Gopinath Kaimal and Sandhil of the S. S. Jai Hind have also been prosecuted under Section 225 of the Indian Shipping Act XXI of 1923.

3. The Commission made a special recommendation regarding the disposal of the foodstuffs seized by the Kerala Government and 15 general recommendations relating to the steps to be taken for the prevention of such occurrences in future.

4. As regards the Special Recommendation, the Commission recommended that the foodstuffs should be released only after certain tests are gone through. This recommendation was examined by the Technical Advisers of the Health Ministry who endorsed the views of the Commission. The attention of the Kerala Government was drawn to the special recommendation and they have accepted it.

5. The 15 general recommendations are of a comprehensive character relating to manufacture, storage, transport, distribution and use of insecticides and visualise provision by way of statute or by way of regulation. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations in principle. These recommendations were examined carefully and it was decided that their implementation should be in two parts, namely (1) those in regard to which decisions could be taken within a short time and (2) those which will take a comparatively longer time to decide. In pursuance of this decision, those insecticides which are highly toxic to man have been notified as 'Poisons' under the Poisons Act, 1919. The State Governments have also been advised to declare these insecticides as 'Poisons' under the relevant State acts. This declaration of the insecticides as 'Poisons' will enable immediate and effective measures to be taken for their storage, packing, sale and labelling. In addition, these insecticides will also come under the category of "Dangerous Goods" for the purposes of transport by sea or by rail and will be subject to all the restrictions which are at present applicable under the rules made under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act and the Indian Railways Act.

6. In addition, the following concurrent action is also being taken:—

(1) The State Governments have been requested to regulate the storage, packing, labelling and sale of such insecticides by making suitable rules under the Poisons Act.

(2) Pending standardisation of specifications for containers for these insecticides and their formulations, it has been decided that the containers for such insecticides should be the same in quality and kind as those in which such insecticides are being imported.

(3) Steps are being taken to enforce strictly the safety measures in the factories manufacturing, formulating or packing these insecticides and to take special precautions in relation to containers, packing, labelling and protective measures to be afforded to workmen.

(4) Steps are being taken to ensure that import trade control licences are issued only to sole agents of manufacturers of such insecticides.

(5) Immediate steps are also being taken to educate the users of insecticides through NES Blocks, Gram

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Sewaks, Gram Panchayats, District Boards, Extension Officers etc. about the precautions to be taken in the use of such insecticides.

7. The action mentioned above will meet fully the special recommendation made by the Commission in regard to the disposal of the seized foodstuffs and partly the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th and 11th recommendations out of the 15 general recommendations made by the Commission. Those parts of the recommendations which will require a comparatively longer time for a decision, are under examination.

13·30 hrs.

MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL

Extension of time for presentation of Report of Joint Committee

Shri Rane (Buldana): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Merchant Shipping Bill, 1958, be extended upto the 21st August, 1958."

Mr. Speaker: The Question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Merchant Shipping Bill, 1958, be extended upto the 21st August, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

ARMED FORCES (ASSAM AND MANIPUR) SPECIAL POWERS BILL*

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon members of the armed forces in disturbed areas in the State of Assam and the Union territory of Manipur.

Mr. Speaker: The Question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon members of the armed forces in disturbed areas in the State of Assam and the Union territory of Manipur."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I introduce the Bill.

Statement regarding Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Ordinance

Pandit G. B. Pant: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Ordinance, 1958, as required under Rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-737/58.]

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

Pandit G. B. Pant: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Mr. Speaker: The Question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extroardinary Part II—Section 2. dated 11-8-58.